

Candidates Give Views on Issues In Board Race

(Seven of the eight candidates who will appear on the ballot Tuesday as the city goes to the polls to elect two members to the Board of Education have responded to requests of the Torrance League of Women Voters for their views on specific subjects. In an effort to give the widest possible circulation to the answers compiled by this group, The HERALD today publishes those statements submitted by the candidates.)

William C. Boswell

William C. Boswell, 2842 Onrado St.; Board of Education incumbent; resident of the district 15 years; department head, B-70 Logistics Systems, North American Aviation, Inc.; Hollywood High School, courses in technical and management fields at various institutions; member Optimist Club, Los Fiestadores, Inc., various trustee associations at local, county, state, and national levels.

1. What would your primary objective be if reelected to the board? To maintain and improve on the accomplishments of the present board: Graded report cards; departmentalization of the 7th and 8th grades; hiring teachers with subject matter majors; improve academic standards; strict budget surveillance; good state legislation; no double sessions. In addition, as funds become available: increase vocational courses; reduce class size; add library facilities and instruction in physical education at 7th and 8th grade level.

2. How do you think a School Board member can promote improvements in the following areas of education:

A) Curriculum. Establishing a policy which implements a continuous review of courses, as well as course content, not only by staff members, but by the teachers themselves. Encouraging establishment of new course or change of content which will keep the school abreast of the latest developments.

B) Obtaining and Retaining a High Caliber of Teachers. Maintaining a school system which recognizes that the teacher is the prime element of the system, has a fair performance evaluation system, encourages and rewards educational growth, keeps a competitive salary schedule, provides opportunity for advancement. Supporting a good recruiting

program staffed by capable personnel is also a requisite.

C) Budget allotments. Budget allocations are based on income and are relatively stable percentages each year. It is impossible to increase funds allocated to teaching without taking funds from some other necessary service. To improve budget allocations requires funds which can come from two sources only — increased state aid or property taxes. As a board member, one can encourage legislation for increased state aid or, ask for support by the voters authorizing additional taxes.

D) Summer School Program. Stressing the need for students to get a broader education base by participating in summer courses whether it be elective or solids. Our regular school schedule of six periods does not afford them the opportunity to acquire a broader base.

E) Special Services. Being cognizant of and sympathetic to the needs of children for special services. Funds allocated to these services come back in many ways which benefit the district. One has only to visit Columbia School, just one of the special services, or an EMR classroom to feel justified in maintaining and improving these services.

What means do you favor for financing new school construction? The least expensive is "pay as you go" for slow growing and high assessed valuation districts. This eliminates paying interest charges as with a bond issue. However, the pupil population growth and low assessed valuation in Torrance makes issuance of building bonds the only answer. The repayment of bonds over a period of years does have the advantage of imposing on every future resident of Torrance a share of this repayment.

Kurt T. Shery

Kurt T. Shery, 22307 Kent Ave.; Board of Education incumbent; resident of district 16 years; M.D., physician and surgeon, past chief-of-staff, Torrance Memorial Hospital; gymnasium (high school), university, medical school, Germany, attended Teacher's College, Columbia University, instructor Academy for Physical Education, University of Berlin, Teacher's College instructor Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, post-graduate study U.S.C. Medical School; past president South West District L. A. County Medical Assn., past vice chairman Smog Committee L. A. County Medical Assn., first elected chairman, Palos Verdes School District Unification Board, chairman Boys and Girls Work Committee Torrance Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Foreign Relations Committee, Torrance YMCA, Boy Scouts, Community Chest.

1. What would your primary objective be if reelected to the School Board? Quality education at a price we can afford. In my 1961 platform I emphasized "Reading, Writing, Spelling and Arithmetic as essential building blocks for quality education." Since then, our District has taken great strides toward our goal. We definitely have to provide for all students, the academically talented as well as those whose interests and abilities go in a different direction. The present Board is doing this, but more needs to be done.

2. How do you think a School Board member can promote improvements in the following areas of education:

A) Curriculum. The State Legislature prescribes, what should be taught in our schools. This is the minimum,

from which we start. The Board sets policy, the superintendent carries it out, as directed. The Board sets the standards. By instituting letter grades and report cards, departmentalizing the 7th and 8th grades and in high school separating English from social studies, remedial reading, economics programs, manual arts training and modern math, the present Board has gone forward.

B) Obtaining and Retaining a High Caliber of Teachers. Teachers like to teach in their majors, which has now been accomplished. Working with teacher representatives, we have set basic salary and merit raise schedules attractive to teachers. This enables our District to select from better qualified applicants and to retain higher caliber teachers in the District. Teachers are represented on departmental committees, and workshops help to improve the teaching climate. Teachers are now welcome at all Board meetings, and their suggestions are carefully considered.

C) Budget Allotments. More than 80 per cent of our budget goes to salaries. The remainder has to cover operations, maintenance, utilities, supplementary books, other educational materials. The Board has been carefully watching the estimates, so as to maintain the required financial reserve. During the year numerous program additions were made by the Legislature, which failed to include appropriations in the legislation requiring, for instance, foreign language instruction in the 6th to 8th grades, aggravating an already precarious financial situation.

D) Summer School Program. Our summer schools are an

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